

## **Peer, Numbers, and Acceleration Waiver Policy**

**It is the policy of River Lakes Hockey that players should play on teams as defined by Minnesota Hockey age groups and classifications.** While some players may be more advanced at a particular age than others, RLH agrees with MN Hockey and USA Hockey that overall development of the player emotionally and physically is best served by having him or her progress normally through age levels and team classifications. RLH does recognize exceptions could arise beyond the normal scope of this policy.

1. **Peer Waiver:** A waiver requested to keep a skater with his/her grade in school
2. **Numbers Waiver:** Players are needed to complete a team.
  - Only the PDC can request skaters for a numbers waiver.
3. **Acceleration:** (Based on player skills and abilities) In rare instances, if a player cannot find comparable competition at his or her age level and the move would not adversely affect the numbers of either team involved.
  - The following criterion must be met in order to apply for an acceleration waiver.
    - The player must have played at the highest level of their age-appropriate group in the season prior to the acceleration request.
    - No player may accelerate more than one year beyond their age-appropriate level. For example, a first-year Peewee cannot accelerate to play Bantams.

\*Recommendation for team sizes is no larger than 15 skaters and no smaller than 10 skaters per team.\*

Waiver requests will be discussed at the July Player Development Committee meeting. All requests will be reviewed with one of the following responses: Denied, Granted, or Approved for an evaluation.

All players will begin the season playing with their age-eligible team until notified by the Player Development Committee on the status of their waiver.

If a waiver request to a higher level is granted, the family will be responsible for the balance of the registration and association requirements for the team the player has been placed on.

### **Peer Waiver Process:**

1. Complete waiver form and turn into the PDC Chair, President and Registrar prior to July 1st.

### **Numbers Waiver Process:**

1. PDC determines a need for players to complete a team
2. The families of all age eligible skaters will be contacted to explain the opportunity and the process that will be followed

3. A deadline for response will be given in that communication, and the deadline must be at least 72 after the communication is sent
4. Player readiness for the next level will be assessed by the Player Development Committee in consultation with previous coaches, discussions with parents, and/or informal observations (e.g., 4 on 4 or camps).
5. In the event that more players apply and are deemed ready than are needed, an evaluation process will be followed.
  - a. If this happens before player evaluations, the applying skaters may be asked to skate at evaluations (they still can only be placed on the lowest-level team). If this happens after evaluations or evaluations are determined not to be the preferred method of assessment, the Player Development Committee will arrange an alternative evaluation period.

**Acceleration Waiver Process:**

1. Complete waiver form and turn into the PDC Chair, President and Registrar prior to July 1st.
  - a. No acceleration waivers will be granted from Mites/8U to Squirts/10U.
2. Player Development Committee will review the waiver at their July meeting.
  - a. Input may be sought from previous seasons' coaches or other individuals that can provide information relevant to the decision-making process
  - b. If an acceleration waiver is approved, the player will be notified that an evaluation is approved within 48 hours after the July Player Development Committee meeting.
3. If an acceleration waiver is approved for an evaluation, the player may play at either their age-appropriate level or the level they wish to accelerate to until the evaluation process is complete.
4. The player must participate in both evaluation sessions, their age-appropriate level as well as the level they wish to accelerate to.
  - a. For levels without an evaluation process, 4-on-4 or other less formal evaluation settings may be used instead.
  - b. Must pay a \$50 non-refundable evaluation fee and must be current on all association fees.
  - c. The player must finish in the top 3 overall skater rankings at the level they wish to accelerate to. Goalies must finish as the top goalie in the level they wish to accelerate to.
    - i. If the player does not meet this requirement, they will return to their age-appropriate level and be placed on a team based on the evaluation process they participated in at that level.
    - ii. If the player meets this requirement, they will be placed on the highest-level team.
  - d. This process will repeat if the player wants to accelerate to a higher level again in the future. A player is not forced to advance to a higher level if they have been granted an acceleration waiver in the past (e.g. a player can play 3-years at one level).